



A PUBLICATION OF THE JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA

Exhibit *Sacred*

Worship

Artist: Nancy Katz

In This Issue

- Ambassador Dinner - Page 10
- International Holocaust Remembrance Day - Page 10
- Israeli Cultural Storytellers - Page 14
- Federation Calendar - Page 17
- Chai Nite - Back Cover



FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CEO

Did You Know...

Is there a 2026 term or expression that means "did you know..."? Professor Google gives me examples such as "are you aware of," "have you heard," and "it's interesting that." I try to be up with the times but let's be honest, I'm a pretty old-school individual. Heck, I think using the term "old-school" is in itself old-school! Maybe I should ask my kids what the hip new terms are!

At our most recent Federation board meeting we were reviewing a draft of the 2026 budget, which is one of those necessary evils (another old-school term). We were talking about the various programs the Federation provides and there were a few programs/services the board wasn't fully aware of. The board? These are the most internally connected people and they didn't know about a specific program? I own and take responsibility for this; and, I need to do a better job. As I mentioned last month, we are taking a new approach on social media and our communications in sharing the Federation's offerings with the community. I am learning we need to do a better job of sharing the "did you know" of the Federation. So this month I'm going to use my Shofar platform to share some things you may not already know.

Did you know...

- Your Chattanooga Federation is a founding member and partner of the Brainerd Food Pantry which serves the 37411 area. The Federation is still a partner with the Chattanooga Area Food Bank as well; the Pantry purchases its food from the Food Bank. The Federation's Social Services Director, Lorri Lipski, serves on the Pantry advisory board, and the Federation has a few volunteers who help pack boxes twice per month. For those in need of these twice-per-month boxes but cannot drive, the Federation delivers these food boxes for the Pantry, door to door. There are about 14 home deliveries made every 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
- Mitzvah Meals are available through your Chattanooga Federation. Meals are delivered weekly with a sliding fee structure. Coming home from hospital or just needing a little extra help? Mitzvah Meals can be

ordered short term or long term. In 2025, we delivered over 3,000 meals!

- The Chattanooga Federation has a social worker and nurse to assist community members on various life issues. Becoming Medicare age? Looking at moving from independent living? Needing guidance with doctors or medications? Need help budgeting? Do you have an aging parent? The Federation's social services department is THE resource for community members of all ages on just about every topic.
- For the past 4 years, the Tennessee Federations have funded a lobbyist in Nashville to help with statewide security grants for personnel as well as antisemitism/hate legislation. Mizpah and B'nai Zion were both awarded this grant (\$30,000+ each). AND, through our national Washington D.C. office, Federations lobby and advocate for additional federal funding to harden Jewish facilities (also received by both Mizpah and B'nai Zion – \$150,000+ each).
- Your Chattanooga Federation provides Jewish experiential grants (camp, Israel, youth groups). \$5,000-\$10,000 per year helps our Jewish families afford these lifelong life changing experiences. The past few years we have partnered with One Happy Camper to increase Chattanooga's available funds. This is NOT a one-time scholarship. Families can apply every year and are guaranteed scholarship funds.
- Your Chattanooga Federation partners with PJ Library by providing every Jewish child age 8 and under with a FREE monthly book to build a personal Jewish library. Not signed up? PJLibrary.org. Your Chattanooga Federation pays for these subscriptions.
- The Federation offers Medicare Part D consultations at no cost. Since we're not selling any products, we provide unbiased information to seniors needing guidance on the best plan for them. In 2025 we met with 85 community members during the Oct. 15 through Dec. 7 enrollment period.

Continued Page 5



CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIR

Gene and Amy Boulware

Passing the Torch

In the coming weeks, many of you will be glued to your televisions and mobile devices. We will again witness the pageantry and athleticism of individuals from all over the world as they compete in the Winter Olympic Games. The Winter Olympics have always been a favorite of mine to watch. Amy and I marvel particularly at the speed skating, bobsledding, and figure skating events. However, we are both still a little "iffy" on the curling. I guess there is still time.

We like to watch the opening ceremony where the Olympic torch is relayed by runners to the Olympic cauldron. This year's Olympic torch journey began in late November and will have journeyed through more than 60 Italian cities before reaching Milan. It is all quite a spectacle.

This month Amy and I will accept the honor of being the first co-chairs of the Chattanooga Jewish Federation, as Ken Goldsmith passes us the "torch". Ken has been an excellent board chair, and his leadership has led the way

for many Federation accomplishments. Ken has been not only a mentor to me but has become a good friend to Amy and myself.

Last month, Ken's article was entitled "Looking Back, Looking Forward". He mentioned that what stood out to him was the way the community continues to show up for one another. Ken was spot-on! We are a community of doers. We are a Jewish community where one can be as involved as they wish to be, whether it be through volunteering, leadership, life-long learning, participating, or simply enjoying Jewish gastronomy. Amy and I encourage you to make 2026 a year of joy! This is what our goal is for the new year. It is the way that we intend to lead.

Ken's hope for the year ahead was that we continue to nurture the connections that make our community so strong. To that end, thank you Ken for passing the torch to us. We will strive to carry on the tradition that you have helped to pass on to us.

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Terms expiring January 2029

Laura Reising Stephen Weinberg Randi Weiss

Terms expiring January 2028

Marilyn Goler Rob Lowe

Terms expiring January 2027

Fern Shire Cara Weiner Rachel Pohl

One Year Board Chair Appointment

Angela Kodsi Skip Schwartz

Rolling Off – With Thanks

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Al Jarman, Vice Board Chair

Adam Gerson, Treasurer

Edie Weiss, Secretary

Tal Cohen, Member-at-Large

Alison Lebovitz, Member-at-Large

Ken Goldsmith, Immediate Past Board Chair





FROM THE CHIEF IMPACT OFFICER

Ann Treadwell atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.org • 493-0270 ext 4

The People of Israel

When I get asked why the Federation has so many programs about Israel, I take a deep breath and explain that the Federation supports the people of Israel. Many of us on staff have various opinions about the government and politics of Israel, but we want to educate about and support the people of Israel. The Federation does this in several ways. Your donation to the campaign goes to support Jews everywhere, including in Israel, through social services. Your donation supports the Shlichim Program, currently the work of Linor Shirinov. Your donation also supports our P2G (Partnership Together) program in our region of Hadera-Eiron and the Czech Republic.

This month the people of Israel are being highlighted through a visit Jan. 7 - 9 by three storytellers. **Lina Miriam Shalev** brings a uniquely Israeli voice to the stage. She made Aliyah as a child, built her life in Hadera, raised two children on her own, and learned to turn life's heartbreaks into strength, meaning, and song. Her one-woman performance weaves together personal stories with live music, exploring identity, belonging, resilience, and the spirit of rebuilding in today's Israel. Lina performs songs in Hebrew, English, and Russian, creating a warm, emotional, and deeply authentic experience. **Eran Ben Ze'ev** is an actor and speaker whose life took a dramatic turn after a tick bite nearly cost him his life — he lost his leg, later received a prosthesis, and transformed his trauma into purpose. His story speaks of loss and rebirth, of confronting trauma and choosing life — a testament to strength, spirit, and the human capacity to rise again. **Ravid Fleisher** is an Israeli singer-songwriter, pianist, educator, and creative force whose work blends soul, R&B, jazz, funk, and ethno-electronic influences. Writing and performing in both Hebrew and English, her music explores personal truth, spirituality, and connection. A multi-instrumentalist, she plays piano and guitar and has led performances and workshops across Israel. We will host a community dinner on Jan. 7, and the storytellers will be at several smaller venues during their stay. Watch community e-mails to see how you can participate and plan to come to the community dinner.

The Chattanooga Documentary Film Series also has three very different stories about the people of Israel. On Jan. 4, four survivors tell us about Oct. 7. It is really important to understand how this event has affected the people of Israel. The story reminded me of how 911 in

the U.S, and particularly NYC, affected and changed us. On Jan. 11, the story is about two current Israeli cabinet ministers. It's about how the ideological agenda of two people can affect a greater community. And, on Jan. 18 it's the story of how one person can become one of the most important links to humanity for American and Israeli Jews. Come celebrate prior to the film with our local chapter of Hadassah, the group she founded.

The month begins to conclude on Jan. 25 with the Federation's Annual Meeting, including the celebration of Volunteers of the Year and the election of Board members. Stay awhile afterwards and see the film Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire. We chose this date for the film to begin the commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day. And, on Jan. 27 Bea Lurie will be at the Federation to talk about the book she wrote about her father's Holocaust experience.

January is about the strength and power of the people. Join us for these remarkable stories of community support and resilience.



Volunteer Opportunity

*Help Feed Children in Our Community*

**In support of East Brainerd Church
of Christ's Snack Pack Program**

**Wednesday January 7th,
6-8pm**

7745 East Brainerd Road 

RSVP to federation@jewishchattanooga.org





JEWISH FEDERATION NURSE

Jennifer Waxenberg, RN nurse@jewishchattanooga.org • 423-322-8641

"Connected in the New Year"

As I am just passing the anniversary of my first year as the Community Nurse Advocate, I have been reflecting back on how much I have learned, and the wonderful people I have met in this community. This role is all about supporting the community in different ways including providing education, navigating resources, promoting health, and of course being an advocate for the care and wellbeing of the people I interact with.

While there is no shortage of health related topics I could discuss in the New Year, one has really risen to the top of my list. As we age, social isolation and loneliness are increasingly shown to have adverse health consequences. The National Institute on Aging points out that feeling isolated or lonely is associated with a higher risk of many health issues including cognitive decline, heart disease, obesity, and more. Social isolation is defined as "lack of social contacts and having few people to interact with," while loneliness is "the distressing feeling of being alone or separated." They are slightly different, but have similar solutions.

The first thing to address is your physical health. Hearing loss, decreasing vision, or loss of physical mobility can all lead to difficulty getting out, or seeing and hearing the things you did before. Hearing loss alone can make a person feel alone in a room full

of people. Staying on top of hearing issues, regular vision checks, and staying as active as possible will help you feel connected.

The next solution is the toughest one: taking the first step to being more connected. We have no shortage of meet ups, programs, and opportunities here at the Jewish Federation for everyone to enjoy. Fear of the unknown stops many people from trying something new, but knowing that interaction and stimulation outside of home is SO good for us mentally AND physically should be a great motivator. As the colder darker days of winter are here, it is even more important to make that effort. A perfect way to do this is by attending our Cabin Fever Camp taking place on Thursdays Jan. 29, Feb. 19, and Mar. 19. These wonderful programs will take place over a couple of hours on each of those days, and include intriguing activities, easy movement, and a delicious meal!

I highly encourage you to reach out to me, or our Social Services Director Lorri Lipski, if you, or anyone in the community you might know is feeling alone or isolated. We will confidentially and gently help you find ways to engage and be more connected in the New Year!

Michael Dzik (*Did You Know...*)

Cont. from Page 1

- In 2025, the Chattanooga Federation provided \$2,000 security funds to B'nai Zion, Chabad, Mizpah, and Machanooga to assist with security personnel.
- The Federation is the resource and keeper of the Chattanooga Jewish Archives. We have cataloged old photos, newspaper clippings, memorabilia, audio/videos of community members, and so much more. The archives are always open for all to experience.

The Federation doesn't want to be the best kept secret in town. All of these are ways we try to support our Jewish community. We want you, our community, to best understand the importance and impact we have on your life and that of the entire Jewish community – day in and day out.

As they say on social media, IYKYK. Now you know!

Michael Dzik

Michael Dzik

mdzik@jewishchattanooga.org | (423) 893-5443

CHATTANOOGA JEWISH FILM SERIES

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Times Free Press



SMITH+HOWARD



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Gary and Millie Lander	Dana and Richard Waxler

Cabin Fever CAMP

What's happening?
Join us for an escape from the bleak midwinter. Warm food & cozy activities!

Where?
At the JCC!
5461 North Terrace

How Much?
\$20 Per session
Includes lunch!

When is this?
Thursday, January 29
Thursday, February 19
Thursday, March 19
10:30-2:00

How do I sign up?
Go to our website
www.jewishchattanooga.org
& click on the link to register.
Pre-pay required!

MITZVAH MEALS

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CHOOSE FROM BEEF, CHICKEN, OR FISH
- \$5 UPCHARGE FOR SALMON
- \$8 MATZA BALL SOUP OR CHILI

All orders must be placed through the Social Services Department.
Orders must be received by 3:00 on Thursday for delivery the following Thursday (1 week notice).
Call or email Lorri Lipski
423-893-9241 or
llipski@jewishchattanooga.com



Linor Shirinov Federation

israel@jewishchattanooga.org • (423) 385-0098

Standing With Strength and Dignity

In the past two years, being an Israeli in the United States has had a whole new meaning.

But also simply being Jewish.

For many American Jews, Israel is not just a place on the map. It is a source of identity, strength, history, and pride. But Israel can also feel far away, especially in moments of crisis. For Israelis, and me, Israel is home.

Although I don't necessarily know from first hand experience what it was like before Oct 7, I'm starting to understand what it is like after.

In my two months here in Chattanooga, the Jewish community has welcomed me with open arms. It makes me feel safe and gives me space to express myself as an Israeli, which I'm very thankful for.

Not too long ago, I found myself in a conversation with someone in Chattanooga who held openly antisemitic views. It wasn't planned, and it certainly wasn't easy. At first, I felt that familiar tightening in my chest. The mix of anger, hurt, and disbelief that so many of us have felt in the past two years. But instead of walking away, I chose to listen and to speak. Not to argue, and not to convince, but to try to bring humanity back into a space where it was missing.

He questioned Israel's right to exist, repeated things heard online, and spoke to me not as a person sitting in front of him, but as a symbol of something he felt they could criticize without consequence.

So I told them who I was. Not as a headline, not as a stereotype - but as an Israeli, as a Jew, and as a human being. I shared what Oct. 7 meant to my community. I explained what it feels like when hatred doesn't stay on the internet but walks beside you in the real world. And I explained why Israel is not an abstract political idea for us - it is home, it is family, it is where our hearts live even when our bodies are far away.

What surprised me most was that once I spoke from a place of honesty and vulnerability, something shifted. He didn't suddenly become pro-Israel. He didn't change his worldview in a moment. But he paused and listened. He saw me. And in moments like the conversation I had, I see why our voices matter. Not because we have all the answers, but because we refuse to disappear. Because we stand proudly as Jews and Israelis, even when it is uncomfortable, even when it is painful, and especially when the world feels heavy.

That encounter also reminded me that our presence here isn't only about teaching Israeli culture or celebrating holidays. It's also about standing with strength and dignity in spaces where misunderstandings and hatred still exist, and showing that we are more than the narratives imposed on us.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A

Shabbat Potluck Dinner Party

wine, food, and friends

JANUARY 30TH, 6:30 PM



PLEASE RSVP AT 423-385-0098
LOCATION WILL BE GIVEN WHEN RSVP'D

THE JEWS OF BERMUDA - by Deborah Levine



My folks are the only Jewish family to have lived on the island of Bermuda for 4 generations. And I'm the only one left who grew up there. Years ago, I wrote a series on the Jews of Bermuda for the Bermudian Magazine. When I recently shared that experience at Mizpah, Jed Mescon suggested that I talk about my Bermuda Jewish history on his radio show. Honored to have that opportunity!

My great grandfather and wife came from Russia to America through Ellis Island where they were given the last name of 'Malloy'. They traveled down the coast to Atlanta where she gave birth to several kids and he worked as a tailor before answering a Bermuda ad for a tailor. His son Myer, my grandfather, served in the United States Navy during World War I, but eventually joined him on the island. Myer had only an 8th grade education, but was an excellent salesman, selling everything from shoes to pianos on his horse and buggy.

He and his brother Barney were innovative entrepreneurs, creating a grocery store at the edge of town where it could serve both the Black and White communities and opening an ice cream shop, introducing the island to refrigeration.

There was no synagogue, Jewish community, or rabbi on the island, but Myer met a lovely young Jewish lady who was vacationing on a cruise ship. Ida Swig was a member of a well-known Jewish family in the Boston area, and Myer and Ida's oldest daughter, my mother Estelle, was born in Boston. But she was brought up in Bermuda, and attended the Bermuda High School for Girls, an Anglican private school where she learned Latin, not Hebrew. The unusual element of upbringing, and that of her younger sister, was that Ida and Myer insisted that the girls be college educated, aiming for Ivy League schools in the States.



With World War II already begun in Europe, Bermuda became a hub of both American and British navy personnel. My family became the Jewish community center for Jewish servicemen. To serve in this way was no small matter. Not only did my grandparents open their home in friendship, but also supported Sabbath services at the military base and helped arrange Passover seders.

Understand that at this time, Jews were banned from some hotels and the golf club. I am proud of my grandparents for their courage and persistence. I'm especially proud of my grandfather who helped injured Holocaust survivors on their way to America. He translated their Yiddish to local doctors so that they would be treated humanely.

Growing up on the island, I was the only Jewish little girl, but my family's background was well-known.



My grandfather was recently honored as one of Bermuda's Founding 400. Years ago, I learned that my own experience was also valuable. Applying for a job with the American Jewish Committee's Chicago office, I was told that since I'd represented Judaism even in childhood, I'd make a good Interreligious Affairs Director.

My connection to Bermuda continues as does my grandparents' legacy. I'm giving a virtual presentation for Bermuda's interfaith group to help them counteract anti-Zionism and antisemitism. I carry on, and thank you all for your support.

You can read my series about Bermuda's Jews published in The Bermuda Magazine here: <https://americandiversityreport.com/category/about-us/adr-advisors/about-deborah-levine/bermudajewishhistoryseries/>



ALEPH BET CHILDREN'S CENTER

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Aleph Bet provides an educational, interactive and developmentally appropriate preschool program enriched by Jewish traditions and values.

RESOLUTIONS = BIG CHANGES

How many times have you come up with New Year's Resolutions and then forgotten about them a month later? I will certainly attest to this being me. I do have to say, though, that the amount of growth and progress Aleph Bet has made in the past four months has been awe-inspiring. I have to give a big shout out and thanks to the amazing teachers at Aleph Bet; without them none of these changes would have been possible. Along with our amazing teachers, our parents at Aleph Bet have been extremely supportive and involved. I am so excited to continue to work with them and our amazing Federation Community this year!



Israel in Focus

U.S.-Israel Relations: Obama, Trump, and Biden Administrations

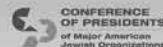
January 19th, 2025 at 7:15pm ET,
No cost - register at jewishchattanooga.org



Ambassador Daniel B. Shapiro
Distinguished Diplomat and Foreign Policy Expert



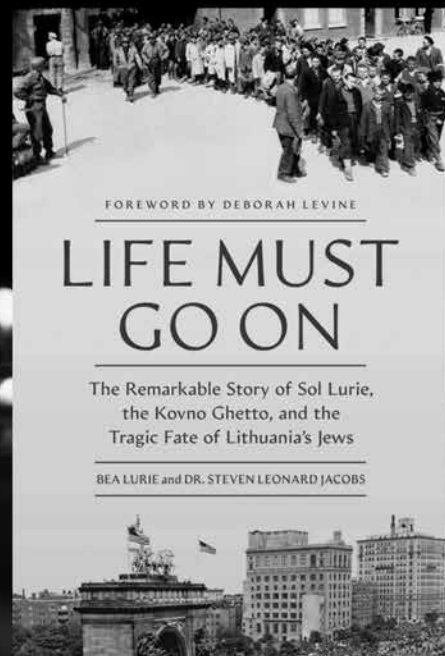
In partnership with



INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION

JANUARY 27, 5:30PM | JCC | 5461 NORTH TERRACE ROAD

Join us to learn the amazing story of Bea Lurie's father, Sol Lurie, survivor of the Holocaust. Bea will have copies of her new book, *Life Must Go On: The Remarkable Story of Sol Lurie, the Kovno Ghetto, and the Tragic Fate of Lithuania's Jews.*



Register at jewishchattanooga.org



BAR MITZVAH ISAAC NEIL DEMUTH

Isaac Neil DeMuth - Bar Mitzvah at B'nai Zion on Saturday, January 3, 2026

Family members - Rachel (mom), Josh (dad), Joseph and Micah (brothers).

Attends Kirkwood Middle School in Clarksville, TN.

Loves Drama, Anime and plays the Saxophone.

"Becoming a Bar Mitzvah to me is a conversion from being a child to an adult. Taking my Jewish identity to the next level by becoming an active part in the community. Also being able to be a part of a Minyan."

HARMONY OF HERITAGE

Photos by Veronica Wicks



CHANUKAH COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AND CANDLE LIGHTING AT THE FEDERATION

Photos by Ray Soldano



EXTRA EXTRA, NEW FOR THE CHATTANOOGA DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES

January 4 – Following the screening of *Even the Walls Cry*, Federation's shlichah Linor Shirinov will take questions about life in Israel after October 7, 2023



January 11 – Following the screening of *Israel: Ministers of Chaos*, Steve Miller (Frank Miller's nephew) will speak with Michael Dzik, Federation President and CEO, and take questions via Zoom. Stephan Miller, is an Emmy®, Pollicie, Reed, and SABRE award-winning public affairs and campaign strategist with experience in domestic and international campaigns in over two dozen countries. He has advised former Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, former Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon, Minister of Economy and former Mayor of Jerusalem Nir Barkat, Israel's Labor Party and other political organizations.

January 18 – Prior to the screening of *Labors of Love: The Life and Times of Henrietta Szold*, our local Hadassah Chapter will hold a reception at 2:30 p.m. Henrietta Szold was the founder of Hadassah, the international Jewish women's group which advances health equity, fights hate and antisemitism in the US, and models shared society in Israel.

January 25 – Prior to the screening of *Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire*, the Federation will hold its Annual Meeting with the celebration of Volunteers of the Year and the election of Board Members. The community is invited to stay for the screening of the film at no cost.



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Chattanooga Jewish

January 2026

DOCS
Documentary Film Series

In person at the
Jewish Cultural Center
5461 North Terrace Road
Virtual screenings available

In person January 4 - Virtual January 4 to January 9

Even the Walls Cry: In the wake of the devastating Hamas-led massacre in Israel on October 7th, four survivors share their harrowing stories. 62 minutes Hebrew with English subtitles



In person January 11 - Virtual January 11 to January 16

Israel: Ministers of Chaos: Two men embody the radical initiatives of this government, two leading ministers who occupy regalian functions: internal security and finance. They are throwing all their weight behind their ideological agenda: imposing Jewish supremacist legislation, in the case of the former, and refounding biblical Israel, in the case of the latter. 58 minutes English, Hebrew, with English subtitles

Hadassah Reception at 2:30 PM prior to the Film

In person January 18 - Virtual January 18 to January 23

Labors of Love: The Life and Times of Henrietta Szold:

A visionary leader and one of history's most influential, yet under-recognized, American Jewish women, Henrietta Szold left an indelible mark on the 20th century. She founded Hadassah in 1912, creating a vital link between American women and communities in Palestine. 79 minutes English



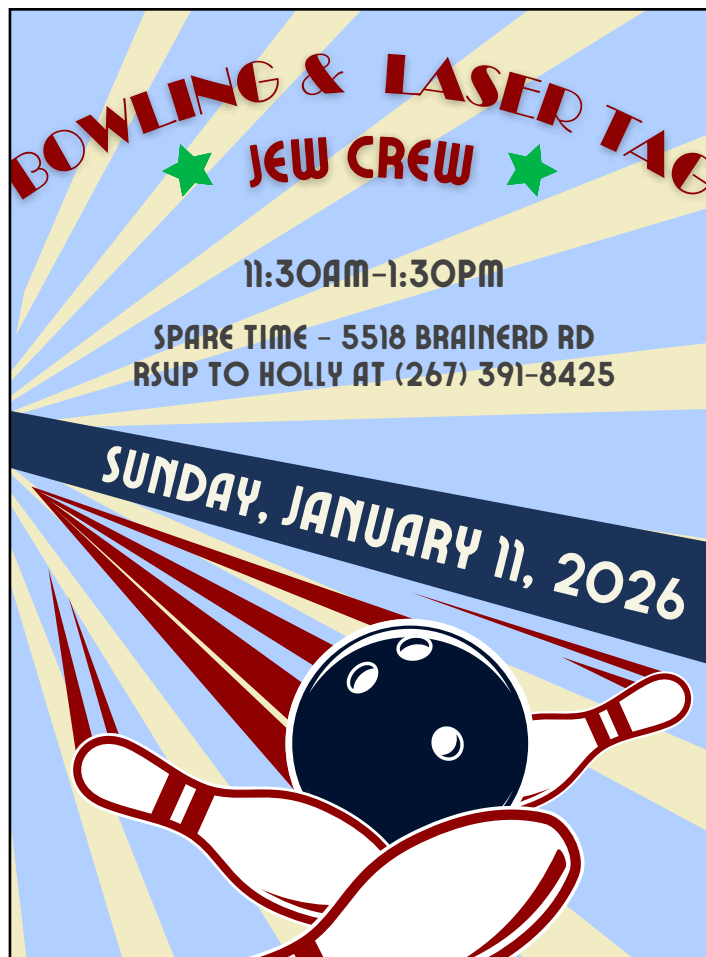
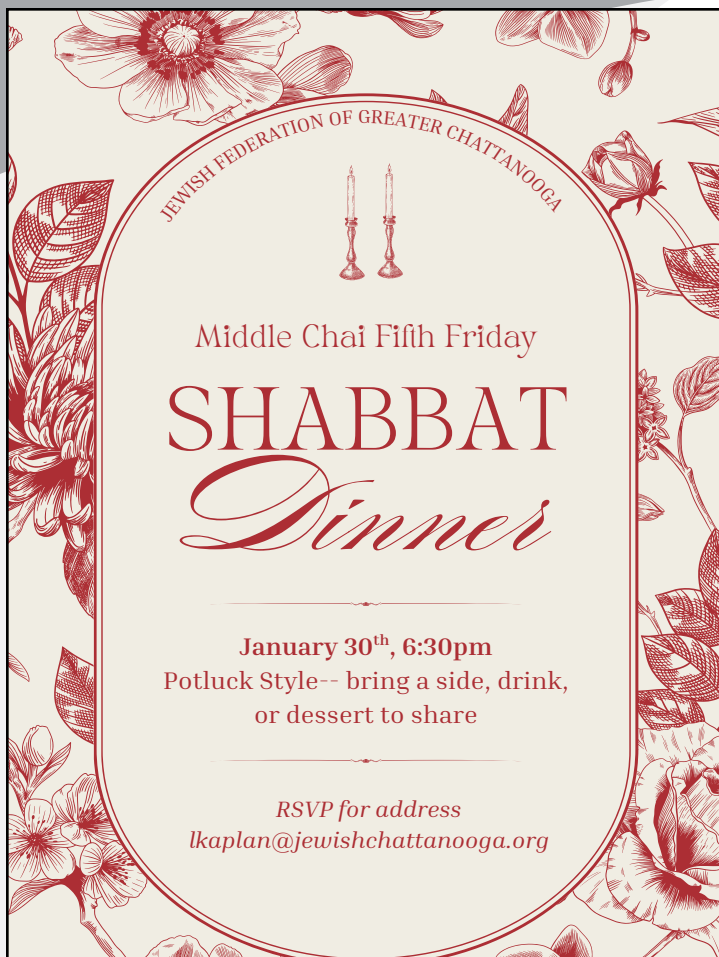
In person January 25 - Virtual January 25 to January 30

Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire Eighty years after his liberation from Buchenwald, we seek to understand the man behind Elie Wiesel's searing and widely read memoir *Night*. Told largely through his own words and eloquent voice, this film seeks to penetrate to the heart of the known and unknown Elie Wiesel.

87 minutes English, French, German

All films will screen in person on the day listed at 3:00 p.m. and virtually beginning at noon the day listed and ending at noon the day listed. Popcorn and a drink will be available at each in-person screening. Virtual screenings must be pre-paid in advance by visiting www.jewishchattanooga.org; you will receive the login code the morning of the listed screening. Subscription for all 4 films is \$36. \$12 one film at a time.

There is no additional charge for pre-paid corporate sponsors, patrons and summer film sponsors.



**WEDNESDAY,
JANUARY 7**

5:30 PM | \$15
JCC | 5461 N TERRACE
RSVP | JEWISHCHATTANOOGA.ORG

ISRAELI CULTURAL STORYTELLERS DINNER



Musician/Composer
**RAVID
FLEISHER**

Actor/Storyteller
**ERAN
BEN ZEEV**



Musician/Storyteller
**LINA
MIRIAM
SHALEV**

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Western Galilee | Central Area
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 **Jewish Federation**
OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA



NEW FEDERATION UPDATE

Federation has moved to .org!

After many years of attempts,
we have purchased **jewishchattanooga.org**
and we are officially up and running!
All staff emails have now changed to
.org instead of .com as well.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sincere condolences to...

...the family and friends of Dorothy Rose Simmons Stock, who died on November 2, 2025. She is survived by her daughters, Marla Geffen (Morris), Margaret "Missy" Wise (Steve), and Karen Rosenberg (Mark); her grandchildren Rachel Geffen Henderson (Spence), Matthew Wise (Miho), Bryan Firestone (Melissa), Phillip Geffen, and Joanna Firestone; and great-grandchildren, Mark Wise, Sasha Wise, and Perry Henderson.

Mazal Tov

...Inbal Lev, former Chattanooga Shlichah, on her engagement to Guy Ehrenberg.

...Leah Kaplan, Federation Engagement Manager, on earning the Catalyst Fellowship, which is a transformational fellowship to inspire volunteerism, in partnership with Jewish Federations and Repair the World. It's a launchpad for Jewish professionals to lead with intention, act with purpose, and deepen their communities' commitment to service. Over nine months, fellows build expertise in service learning, receive training and mentorship from national educators, and pilot new or expanded service programs in their communities.

COMMUNITY PERK FROM YOUR JEWISH FEDERATION

Free day passes to
the Common House

CO-WORKING SPACE | EVENTS | RESTAURANT | GYM

Check out @commonhousechatt on
instagram for weekly schedule of events

Email lkaplan@jewishchattanooga.org
for your pass. Limited supply.

CAMP AND ISRAEL SCHOLARSHIPS FROM YOUR JEWISH FEDERATION!

Applications open NOW through February 15; Up to \$1,750 per camper

The Chattanooga Jewish Federation is partnering with One Happy Camper (OHC) and PJ Goes to Camp for first time campers. Been to camp more than once? More than twice? Three times? Your Chattanooga Federation offers camp scholarships for ALL! ALL Chattanooga applications go through OHC: jewishcamp.org. NOTE – If this is not your first time, the application may “deny” your grant. Not to worry, OHC collects that data for Chattanooga and you WILL get a grant! Grants range from \$500-\$1,750 per child, per summer, from the Federation. Requirements • Must be approved Jewish summer camp (through movements, Hadassah, etc) • Family must live in the Chattanooga metro area • Family must make annual campaign gift (and in good standing) to Federation – at any level.

Contact Michael Dzik – mdzik@jewishchattanooga.org



The Federation recognizes the life-long benefits of Jewish summer camp, building Jewish identity, friendships and independence.



Chattanooga Allergy Clinic



**Todd Levin, MD; Jessica Van Mason, MD; Marc Cromie, MD;
Jennifer Patel, MD; Hyman Kaplan, MD; Lee Perry, MD**

423-899-0431 • chattanoogaallergyclinic.com

January 2026 Federation Upcoming Events

**2,9,16,
23,30**

**Fridays, 11 am (At the JCC)
Coffee and Conversations**

Weekly meetup at the Federation. No agenda, just come prepared to gab and drink coffee/tea.

4.

**Sunday, 3 pm (At the JCC) (Virtual January 4-9)
Documentary Film Series**

Even the Walls Cry. In the wake of the devastating Hamas-led massacre in Israel on October 7th, four survivors share their harrowing stories.

**5,12,
19,26**

**Mondays, 1 pm (At the JCC)
Chair Wellness**

Weekly wellness group class. For all ages and all abilities.

7.

**Wednesday, 5:30pm (At the JCC)
Israeli Cultural Storytellers Dinner**

Musicians, Storytellers and Actors. A program in conjunction with Partnership2Gether.

7.

**Wednesday, 6 pm (At the East Brainerd Church of Christ)
Volunteer Opportunity**

JCC is volunteering at the East Brainerd Church of Christ to make snack packs for food insecure children.

11.

**Sunday, 12:30 pm (At Spare Time)
Jew Crew**

Bowling and Laser Tag for our high-school Jewish group.

11.

**Sunday, 3 pm (Virtual January 11-16)
Documentary Film Series**

Israel: Ministers of Chaos. Two men embody the radical initiatives of this government, two leading ministers who occupy regalian functions: Internal security and finance. They are throwing all their weight behind their ideological agenda: imposing Jewish supremacist legislation, in the case of the former, and refounding biblical Israel, in the case of the latter.

18.

**Sunday, 2:30 pm Hadassah Reception prior to film (Virtual January 18-23)
Documentary Film Series**

Labors of Love: The Life and Times of Henrietta Sold. A visionary leader and one of history's most influential, yet under-recognized, American Jewish women, Henrietta Szold left an indelible mark on the 20th Century. She founded Hadassah in 1912, creating a vital link between American women and communities in Palestine.

19.

**Saturday, 7:15 pm (At the JCC)
U.S.-Israel Relations: Obama, Trump, and Biden Administrations**

Speaker: Ambassador Daniel B. Shapiro, Distinguished Diplomat and Foreign Policy Expert.

25.

**Sunday, 12:30 pm (At the JCC)
Federation Annual Meeting**

Volunteer of the Year Honors and Celebration, Lunch, Annual Report from Federation Board Chair.

25.

**Sunday, 3 pm (Virtual January 25-January 30)
Documentary Film Series**

Elie Wiesel: Soul on Fire. Eighty years after his liberation from Buchenwald, we seek to understand the man behind Elie Wiesel's searing and widely read the memoir *Night*. Told largely through his own words and eloquent voice, this film seeks to penetrate to the heart of the known and unknown Elie Wiesel.

27.

**Tuesday, 5:30 pm (At the JCC)
International Holocaust Commemoration with Bea Lurie and Reception**

Join us for this commemoration and to learn the amazing story of Bea Lurie's father, Sol, survivor of the Holocaust. She will have copies of her new book, *Life Must Go On: The Remarkable Story of Sol Lurie, the Kovno Ghetto, and the Tragic Fate of Lithuania's Jews*.

29.

**Thursday, 10:30 am - 2 pm (At the JCC)
Cabin Fever Camp**

Join us for an escape from the bleak midwinter. Warm food & cozy activities! \$20 per person, 3 Thursdays through 3 months.

30.

**Friday, 6 pm - NextGen Fifth Friday
Friday, 6:30 pm - Middle Chai Fifth Friday**

Shabbat dinner with our 20s & 30s group, or our 40s and 50s group.

Machanooga is a joint program between Mizpah and B'nai Zion that serves children from pre-K to 8th grade.

מחנוגה
machanooga
A bridge to Jewish learning



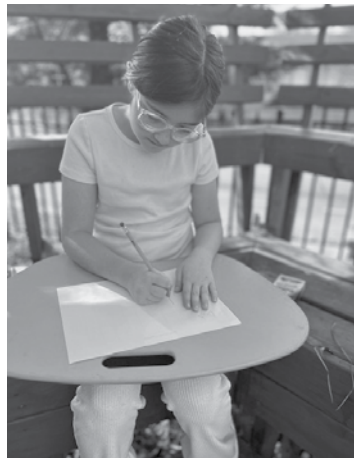
Jen Lewis
Co-Director



Traci Sloan
Co-Director

roshnooga@gmail.com

Machanooga Happenings



Machanooga 25/26 Session II

January 11

January 25

February 1

February 8

February 22

March 1- Purim

March 8

March 29

April 12

April 19

April 26

May 3



923 McCallie Avenue
Chattanooga, TN 37403
(423) 267-9771
www.mizpahcongregation.org
office@mizpahcongregation.org



We are a welcoming and inclusive congregation, offering worship, learning, social action, and social programming that enhances the lives of our members, helping us as we make choices of our lives that we might better ourselves and our world by our actions.

Mizpah CONGREGATION **POT LUCK SHABBAT** 

BREAKFAST FOR DINNER
AFTER SERVICES

YOUNG FAMILIES ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN US 

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23RD
SERVICES AT 6:00 PM

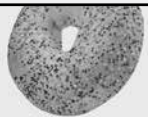
PLEASE SIGN UP TO BRING A BREAKFAST ITEM
<https://bit.ly/PotLuckShabbat>



 **SCAN ME**



FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
MIZPAH OFFICE AT 423-267-9771

Mizpah CONGREGATION **a night out for DINNER at Honey Seed** 

HAND-ROLLED BAGELS • WOODFIRED PIZZA
1705 Market Street, Chattanooga

January 6th at 5:30pm

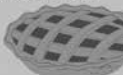
OWNER, ROBERT WERK WILL SHARE HOW HE BROUGHT HIS FAMOUS MONTREAL BAGELS TO CHATTANOOGA.

 DUTCH TREAT—SUPPORT A LOCAL JEWISH BUSINESS! PLEASE RSVP 423-267-9771 OR OFFICE@MIZPAHCONGREGATION.ORG

Mizpah CONGREGATION **First Friday Family Shabbat** 

JANUARY 2, 2026
SERVICES @ 6:00 PM
DINNER @ 7:00 PM

chicken in a pot, salad bar and desserts

CHICKEN TENDERS FOR KIDS
VEGGIE & GLUTEN-FREE OPTION 

Adult Members: \$12 **Adult Non-Members: \$15**
Age 13-22: \$9 **Age 13-22 Non-Members: \$11**
Under 12: No Charge **Under 12: No Charge**

 **PLEASE RSVP**

PLEASE RSVP TO THE OFFICE AT 423-267-9771 OR
EMAIL: OFFICE@MIZPAHCONGREGATION.ORG



Mizpah Family Programming and Mizpah Hebrew School working an evening shift at the Chattanooga Food Bank in November.

Tot SHABBAT **3RD SHABBAT EACH MONTH:** 

TOT SHABBAT 5:15 pm
SHIREI SHALOM 6:00 pm
Sabbath of Song and Meditation

 **MIZPAH TORAH STUDY**

9:15 am Shabbat
Bagels and lox prior -
Mizpah Feinstein Hall

MIZPAH WORSHIP AND LEARNING

Shabbat Services:	Fridays 6:00 PM
	Saturdays 11:00 AM
Torah Study	Saturdays 9:00 AM
Beyond Torah: The Prophets	Tuesdays 5:00 PM
Mussar: Ethics of Judaism	Wednesdays 7:30 AM
Mizpah Choir Practice	Thursdays 5:00 PM

For exact schedule, contact Marianna Allen - 423-432-0980

Celebrate and Enrich Jewish Life

B'nai Zion's vision is to inspire a vibrant, uplifting, and inclusive community connected to the dynamic traditions of Conservative Judaism.



6210 Airpark Dr.
Chattanooga, TN 37421
(423) 894-8900
www.bnaizioncongregation.com
office@bzcongregation.com

Southern Schmooze at Ramah Darom

Join us in the North Georgia mountains for a fun-filled, family-friendly, all-inclusive weekend with members of our community and a chance to schmooze with others from around the Southeast.



Southern Schmooze at Ramah Darom
70 Darom Lane, Clayton, GA 30525

Feb 27-Mar 1, 2026

\$195/per person (ages 3 & up)
\$36/per infant (ages 2 & under)

This all-inclusive price covers your activities, programming, comfortable hotel or cabin accommodations and delicious kosher meals, snacks and drinks.

Learn more and register today!

ramahdarom.org/schmooze



SHIRA V'SHULCHAN שירה ושולחן

Friday, January 23
6:00pm
Social Hall

Shira v'Shulchan - Song and Table
A unique musical Shabbat experience followed by a dairy potluck oneg!



CONNECTING Israel Through Music with P2G

with musician, Ravid Fleisher

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8
5:30PM - 7:00PM

B'nai Zion
6210 Airpark Drive

Sponsored by

Jewish Federation
OF GREATER CHATTANOOGA



B'nai Zion Calendar

Friday Night - Kabbalat Shabbat: 6:00 pm

Shabbat Morning Services: 9:30 am

BSI: Jan. 14, 21, and 28 (Zoom)

Minyan/Foundations: Tues., 6:00/6:30 pm via Zoom

Weekly Parsha Study: Sundays, 7:00pm

Weekly Talmud Study: Thursdays, 10:00am

January

3	Bar Mitzvah of Isaac DeMuth
4	BLT (Bagels, Lox, Tefillin) / Jews & Brews
8	Connecting Israel Through Music w/ P2G
10	Shabbat Muffins / Lunch & Learn
11	Kadima
17	Teen Beit Midrash
23	Shira v'Shulchan
24	Lunch & Learn

BZ'S ANNUAL SUPER BOWL PARTY AND FUNDRAISER

February 8, 2026
6210 Airpark Dr.

6:00 pm: Cookout
6:30 pm: Game Time
\$15 entry, or free with purchase of a square

Scan the QR code to buy a square!



\$50 squares = \$500 per quarter

\$100 squares = \$1,000 per quarter



950 Vine Street
Chattanooga TN 37403
(423) 490-1106
www.jewishchatt.com
rabbi@jewishchatt.com



**Chabad is a philosophy, a movement,
and an organization.**

Chabad is an educational organization dedicated to helping every Jew, regardless of background, affiliation, or personal level of observance, to increase their level of Jewish knowledge, enthusiasm, and commitment.

Thank you to everyone that showed up LOUDER AND PROUDER to Light Up Chattanooga!



Explore
30 real-life
questions
regular
Jews asked
sages across
the ages.

JOIN
CAPTIVATING CASES
IN RABBINIC RESPONSA
STARTING JAN. 20

MYJLI.COM/LEARN/CHATTANOOGA

Captivating Cases
in Rabbinic Responsa



**Women's Judaic Art,
Hebrew School Olive Press**



Hadassah enhances the health and lives of people in Israel, the United States and worldwide. By connecting and empowering Jewish women to effect change, we are the women who do. Now, and always, we are Hadassah. Be proud of who you are, Hadassah women.



**Judy Sachsman
& Beth Thomas**
Co-Presidents of Chattanooga
Chapter of Hadassah

PLANNING MEETING

Chattanooga Hadassah will hold a strategic planning meeting to discuss events in 2026-27 on Sunday, January 11, in the library at Mizpah from 10-11:30. All Hadassah members and Machanooaga parents are encouraged to attend. Hadassah will supply the coffee and members are asked to bring any other dairy brunch items they would like to include. No RSVP is required, but we would be delighted to see you for brunch, discussion, and planning.

WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

When the 39th World Zionist Congress convened in Jerusalem, Hadassah member Dana Waxler was part of the Hadassah delegation. During her trip, she attended the official opening ceremony for the Gandel Rehabilitation Center, located on Mount Scopes. Dignitaries attending included Prime Minister Netanyahu and President Herzog as well as the HMO Chair in Israel, the HMO Director General, Hadassah CEO Ellen Finkelstein, and National Hadassah President Carol Ann Schwartz. Dana received a private VIP tour of the hospital when the conference schedule had to be altered. She found a state-of-the-art rehabilitation hospital with all the newest therapy machines, occupational therapy areas, and two beautiful therapy pools, one equipped with a lift for wheelchairs. Each patient is assigned a psychologist/psychiatrist to help with post-traumatic stress. The hospital has four more floors that will be built out in the future for additional therapy needs. On Oct. 7 when Israel was savagely attacked, the Rehabilitation Center was still under construction. By Jan. 2024, Hadassah HMO had transformed a subterranean parking garage level into a temporary safe hospital with one hundred beds, including electricity, medical gases, and handicapped accessible bathrooms with showers - all protected from bombings. Today the hospital is in the process of transforming this space into a permanent fully functioning emergency evacuation floor.



CHANUKKAH ANNUAL DINNER

In conjunction with Federation, Hadassah celebrated Chanukkah with the annual dinner and candle lighting at the JCC on the first night. As part of that holiday celebration, Hadassah collected food for the Brainerd Food Pantry and toiletries for Room in the Inn. Donation boxes at the JCC can still be filled. Thank you to Jennifer Meglich for coordinating this effort



DOCUMENTARY FILM SERIES

On Sunday, January 18, as part of the Documentary film series, the latest movie about Henrietta Szold, the woman who created Hadassah, will be shown. Hadassah members will provide an array of dairy desserts prior to the movie. Hadassah will join the Federation in commemorating International Holocaust Day on Jan. 27 when Hadassah member Bea Lurie will speak about the book she recently published about her father's experiences surviving the Holocaust, **Life Must Go On**.



When Israel opens for tourists, be ready; it will need us visitors! May we spend next year in Jerusalem in 5786. And put a trip to Israel on your 2026 calendar for the Hadassah National Conference Oct. 26-30.

By connecting and empowering women to effect change, **we are the women who do.** Be proud of who you are, Hadassah women.





JOIN THE JEWISH FEDERATION LEGACY SOCIETY

The Legacy Society is made up of individuals who, in the tradition of our Jewish faith, wish to share their blessings with others by providing for the future needs of the Jewish community. There are a number of ways to contribute to the Jewish Federation's Endowment through estate planning: a bequest in a will, contribution of the remainder of an IRA or other retirement plan, a life insurance policy, charitable remainder trust, donor advised fund, charitable gift annuity, piece of real estate, securities or other property, or the donation of other assets. However they choose to contribute, Legacy Society members can be sure that their planned gift will turn their dreams or a strong future Jewish community into a reality. Join today.

Anonymous (2)	Center, Austin	Hanan, Rachel	Levine, Lawrence*	Schwartz, Holly
Allen, Amelia*	Center, Marilyn	Hanan, Victor*	Lewis, Art	Schwartz, Skip
Allen, Owen	Cohen, Tal	Hill, J.R.	Lewis, Vicki	Siskin, Pris
Alper, Maxine*	Cohn, Herb*	Hochman, Colman*	Lowe, Beth	Sivils, Janet
Balser, Jeff	Cohn, Sue*	Hochman, Lynn	Lowe, Rob	Spector, Linda
Balser, Robin	Cowan, Rob	Hodes, Alvin*	Lowy, Pamela	Spector, Mark*
Barukh, Rebecca	Diamond, Karen	Hodes, Andy	Lowy, Sam	Spector, Mike
Bean, David*	DiStefano, David	Hodes, Melody	Malsh, Rebecca*	Susman, Gail
Bean, Margaret	DiStefano, Susan	Howard, Lynn	Nash, Ike*	Susman, Joel*
Berz, Bob	Dittus, Sandy	Israel, David	Oxenhandler, Barbara	Weiner, Cara
Binder, Claire	Dropkin, Warren	Israel, Scott	Parker, Jordan	White-Dropkin, Donna
Black, Bonnie	Dzik, Michael	Jaffe, Dot*	Posternack, Warren	Winer, David
Black, Stephen	Dzik, Paula	Jaffe, Sam*	Pregulman, Helen	Winer, Elaine
Bogo, Jerry	Fairchild, David	Lakow, Harry*	Richelson, Alan	Winer, Finette
Bogo, Rosalee	Frank, Estelle*	Lebovitz, Alison	Richelson, Miriam*	Winer, Sanford*
Bohn, Jerry*	Gelburd, Alexander	Lebovitz, Alan	Rose, Cassie	Zachary, Richard
Brooks, Ellyn	Sheldon	Lebovitz, Betty	Rose, Kevin	
Brooks, John	Goler, Marilyn	Lebovitz, Charles	Rosenfeld, Jackie	
Brouner, Betsy	Hanan, Jan	Lebovitz, Lauren	Rosenfeld, Roy	
Brouner, Lee	Hanan, Michael	Lebovitz, Michael	Sachsman, Judy	

*** Deceased**

**See how easy it is to join the Legacy Society!
Call Michael Dzik at (423) 493-0270 ext 15.**

**Thank you
for insuring
our future.**

STAY INFORMED

A full listing of monthly programs is on our website,
www.JewishChattanooga.org, where you can RSVP

Find up-to-date information about online programs,
cancellations and changes in our:

- Weekly Community Email
- Federation Facebook Page
(Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga)
- Federation Website
(JewishChattanooga.org)

**QUESTIONS? Call us!
(423) 493-0270**

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THE **POWER** OF A COMMUNITY

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**the
Shofar**

Published ten times a year by the
**Jewish Federation of
Greater Chattanooga**

Ken Goldsmith, Board Chair
Michael Dzik, President & CEO

The Shofar is mailed at no charge to
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Find us online at
JewishChattanooga.org



A TIME TO CELEBRATE LIFE
WITH COMMUNITY

CHAI

Nite

LIVE MUSIC

DANCING

DRINKS

Saturday, February 7, 2026, 7:30PM

\$54 per person

Register at Jewishchattanooga.org

Jewish Cultural Center

5461 North Terrace

Cocktail Attire